

MTF Formulary Management for Nasal Corticosteroids

Department of Defense Pharmacoeconomic Center

Uniform Formulary Decision: The Director of TMA has approved the recommendations from the 15 November 2005 DoD P&T Committee meeting regarding formulary status of Nasal Corticosteroids on the Uniform Formulary (UF) and Basic Core Formulary (BCF). Conversion from non-formulary agents to a BCF or UF drug or establishment of medical necessity may commence 19 Jan 06 and must be completed by 19 Apr 06.

Uniform Formulary (UF) Agents		Non-Formulary Agents
Nasal corticosteroids on BCF MTFs <u>must</u> have on formulary	Nasal corticosteroids not on BCF MTFs <u>may</u> have on formulary	Nasal corticosteroids MTFs <u>must not</u> have on formulary
Fluticasone (Flonase)	Mometasone (Nasonex) Flunisolide (Nasarel or generic equivalent)	Beclomethasone (Beconase AQ, Vancenase AQ) Budesonide (Rhinocort AQ) Triamcinolone (Nasacort AQ) Any future HFA formulation of these products

- Fluticasone (Flonase) is still the preferred nasal corticosteroid across the MHS.
- In equipotent doses the nasal corticosteroids are equally efficacious.
- Nasal corticosteroids are indicated for use in children ≥ 6 years, but fluticasone (Flonase) is indicated for children ≥ 4 years and mometasone (Nasonex) is indicated for children ≥ 2 years.
- Published evidence shows no clear difference between the nasal corticosteroids in the risk of local adverse effects (AEs) such as nasal irritation and stinging, nose bleeds, and rhinorrhea.
- Risk of systemic AEs is low when nasal corticosteroids are used according to labeled dosing instructions. There is no definitive evidence that systemic effects are more likely to occur with one agent vs. another.
- Nasal corticosteroids designated as non-formulary (NF) are the least cost-effective agents. MTFs should only dispense NF drugs to patients who cannot be treated with BCF/UF nasal corticosteroids. MTFs must use the medical necessity criteria established by the DoD P&T Committee. The criteria are available on the TRICARE Pharmacy website: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/medical-nonformulary.cfm>. A Microsoft Word version of the medical necessity form adaptable for MTF use is available on RxNET.

Nasal Corticosteroids Dose and MTF Price Comparison			
Drug & Dosage Form	Weighted Average Daily Cost (Nov 2005) ^{ab}	Cost/Unit ^d at MTF	
Basic Core Formulary nasal corticosteroids	MTF Costs	System Cost^c	
Fluticasone (Flonase)	\$0.57	\$0.75	\$12.93
Other Uniform Formulary nasal corticosteroids available for inclusion on MTF formularies			
Mometasone (Nasonex)	\$0.57	\$1.51	\$12.80
Flunisolide (Nasarel or generic equivalents)	\$0.18	\$0.84	\$5.49
Non-formulary nasal corticosteroids			
Beclomethasone (Beconase AQ, Vancenase AQ)	\$1.90	\$2.14	\$37.08
Budesonide (Rhinocort AQ)	\$1.51	\$1.99	\$38.95
Triamcinolone (Nasacort AQ)	\$1.33	\$1.88	\$36.70

^a Post-decision prices; actual price may vary slightly due to MTF-specific Prime Vendor discounts and/or fees

^b MTFs are prohibited from entering into any incentive pricing agreements in any form with pharmaceutical manufacturers to receive additional discounts.

^c System costs are the average weighted daily cost across all 3 points of service.

^d Cost per canister at MTF

References

- For the full clinical review of the nasal corticosteroids and for discussion about UF decisions, log onto RxNET (the PEC's web forum) www.dodrxnet.org (under "File Library" forum, "DoD P&T Library" folder).
- Current/future drug classes under review by the DoD P&T Committee: www.pec.ha.osd.mil/PT_Committee.htm
- TRICARE website for information on the Uniform Formulary: www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy
- TRICARE Formulary Search Tool: www.tricareformularysearch.org

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